particulate matter and other pollutants as well as meteriological data in order to take such remedial measures as may be required. Besides, periodical chemical treatment and preservation is being carried out in phase.

(vi) Department of Environment, Government of India vide its notification dated 3rd May, 1983 has demarcated an area measuring 10,400 sq. kms. around Taj Mahal where no industry with pollution potential is allowed.

(vii) There is a ban on the use of furnance oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundaries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.

(viii) Movement of heavy vehicles around the Taj Mahal has been stopped and the parking has been shifted to Shilpgram.

(ix) Burning of rubbish near Taj has been stopped.

(x) Emission standards for vehicles have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(xi) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is evolving guide lines to determine measures for abatement of pollution and if necessary re-define the co-ordinates of Taj TRAPEZIUM.

(e) Experts from within and outside the country are consulted as and when the necessity is felt.

Rate of Interest Charged by G.D.A.

*171. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ghaziabad Development Authority in its brochure for Indira Puram Scheme Code 634 had prescribed 18 per cent as rate of interest for delayed payments of instalments and 15 per cent interest in payment of regular instalments;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Authority has increased the rate of interest by 3 per cent; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Authority allows the benefit of reducing the cost calculated on the basis of 15 per cent interest, in case lump-sum payment is made in one or two instalments before taking possession of plots, payment for which is otherwise required to be made in a number of instalments in terms of the brouchure?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ghaziabad Development Authority initially finances its projects under hire purchase scheme and Self Financing Schemes by obtaining loans from HUDCO, HDFC, P.N.B. Housing Finance Ltd. and Commercial banks. The Authority has reported that, since the cost of borrowing from these institutions has increased, the Board of Directors of Ghazibad Development Authority has decided to increase the rate of interest chargeable to allottees by 3 per cent.

(c) It has also been reported by the Authority that exemption from payment of interest is given only if the payment is made in one lumpsum. In case payment is made in instalments, interest is charged up to the date of payment of the amount.

Misuse of Facilities Meant to the Handicapped

*172. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities being provided to the handicapped persons of the country at present;

(b) the nodal agencies involved in administering these facilities;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 70 per cent of the facilities meant for handicapped persons in the capital are being misused;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to check their misuse?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The Ministry of Welfare provides facilities like education, vocational training, economic and social rehabilitation and aids and appliances to the handicapped persons through Voluntary Organisations by giving them assistance upto 98% of their expenditure. It also provides services like education, man power development, vocational guidance, counselling and rehabilitation through National Institutes. A 3%

job resarvation (1% each for visual speech, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped) in Group C and D posts under the Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings is provided for. To assist the employable handicapped Special Employment Exchanges and Special Cells are run through-out the country. For comprehensive rural rehabilitation services, 11 District Rehabilitation Centres are Functioning in 11 districts.

In addition, concessions like travel concession by train and air, duty exemption for specified goods for the use of the handicapped, income-tax exemption to visually handicapped persons, conveyance allownace to Central Government employees, loan under Differential Rates of Interest Scheme to enable handicapped persons to pursue gainful employment, reservation of dealership of agencies of public sector oil companies are also provided by the various Central Ministries.

(b) While respective Ministries providing facilities are nodal agencies in their respective areas, the Ministry of Welfare is the nodal Ministry for formulation of policies and programmes for the handicapped.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The question does not arise.

Report of the Expert Committee set up to Identify Creamy Layer

*173. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee set up by Government to identify the "Creamy Layer" among the backward classes for job reservations in pursuance of Supreme Court's orders, has submitted a detailed list of such classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps since taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The Expert Committee set up by the Union Government to identify the 'Creamy Layer' among the Backward Classes for job reservation in pursuance of Supreme Court's orders was given the additional assignment of preparing the list of Other Backward Classes in accordance with the principles of commonality laid down in the OM of 13-8-1990. The list of OBCs prepared by the Expert Committee in respect of 14 States which had notified lists of OBC's for reservation in State services was received by the Government on 28-6-1993. The list is being examined by the Central Government.

इण्डियन आयरन एंड स्टील कम्पनी (इस्को) का गैर-सरकारीकरण

*174. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी :
श्री रामसिंह राठवा :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार इण्डियन आयरन एंड स्टील कंपनी को गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र को सौंपने पर विचार कर रही है, यदि हां, तो उस गैर-सरकारी कंपनी का नाम क्या है जिसे सरकार उक्त कंपनी को सौंपने पर सहमत हो गयी है;

(ख) क्या इस कंपनी को गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र को सौंपे जाने के कारण इस कंपनी में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों और अधिकारियों की नौकरी का भविष्य अन्धकारमय हो जायेगा और उनकी सेवाएं समाप्त कर दी जायेंगी;

(ग) इस संयंत्र की वर्तमान लागत कितनी है और यदि सरकार इसकी लागत में कमी करती है, तो भारतीय इस्पात उद्योग पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा;

(घ) क्या सरकार को इस इस्पात संयंत्र को भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण को सौंपने के लिये कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) इण्डियन आयरन एण्ड स्टील कम्पनी (इस्को) के आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी की सम्भावनाओं का पता लगाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा गठित विशेषज्ञों की समिति ने इस प्रयोजन के लिए भारतीय और विदेशी कम्पनियों से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किए थे । एक विदेशी कम्पनी, मेसर्स मितसुई एण्ड कम्पनी तथा दो भारतीय कम्पनियों मैसर्स मुकन्द लिमिटेड और मैसर्स उषा रैक्टिफायर कारपोरेशन (इण्डिया) लिमिटेड से अन्तिम रूप से बाध्यकर प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए थे । विशेषज्ञों की समिति की सिफारिशों पर सरकार विचार कर रही है ।

(ख) बाध्यकर प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित करने में निर्धारित एक पूर्वशर्त, जो प्रस्ताव देने वाली कम्पनियों को स्वीकार्य थी, यह थी कि 'इस्को' के सभी कर्मचारियों को उन स्वीकार्य शर्तों से काम पर नहीं रखा जाएगा जिनके वे इस समय पात्र हैं ।

(ग) 'इस्को' की नियत सम्पत्ति जिसमें इसके कार्यरत पूंजीगत कार्य शामिल नहीं हैं, कम्पनी के खातों के अनुसार लगभग 300 करोड़ रुपए आंकी गई है । इस लागत को कम करने का प्रश्न नहीं होता ।